Capping Coffee Exports

756. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that coffee planters and their associations have urged the coffee board not to cap coffee exports of reimpose export duty on coffee;

(b) if so, in what circumstances, exports of coffee were proposed to be capped and export duty reimposed; and

(c) what is Government's decision in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir, There have been representations from coffee planters and their Associations not to cap coffee exports or reimpose export duty on coffee.

(b) and (c) In view of the run away price rise of coffee in the domestic market, it was decided to cap the exports of coffee without affecting the target for exports during current year so that the domestic availability of coffee could improve. However, Government have not reimposed the export duty on coffee.

Ban on imports from India by Pakistan

757. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has imposed a ban on all imports from India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, what are the results in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) Yes, Sir; the Government of Pakistan had issued an order on 10-10-1994, banning all imports from India for a period of 3 months.

(b) The Order did not specify a reason but it was understood to be on account of the plague.

(c) Yes, Sir; the matter was taken up and pursued with the Government of Pakistan.

(d) The Government of Pakistan has since lifted the ban.

Trade relations with Netherlands

758. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Netherlands is very keen to expand trade relations with India;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Netherlands in this directions; and

(c) the reaction and response of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Government and the business community of the Netherlands have reacted favourably to the economic liberalisation process undertaken in India. While a number of business and trade delegations have been exchanged between the two countries, important initiatives include the visit of the Netherlands Foreign Trade Minister in February, 1993 and their Prime Minister in October, 1993. Both were accompanied by high level delegation of industrialists and businessmen. Government encourages the interaction between entrepreneurs of the two countries with a view to enhancing bilateral economic relations.